

Current

Above us
a blue heron is winging its way
through the pink and orange pages
of a new morning.
Behind us,
current from the Little Sioux River
is coaxing bison bones out from clay.
The heron will see more than we know.
The bones know more than they say.

Today we will align with frogs
and dangle our toes in muck
wondering . . .

spring: vernal or metal?
barb: catfish or wire?
drum: sound or barrel?
river: water or fire?

Salvaging these tangled breaths
borrowed from tomorrow
will restore pieces of the future
before children arrive.
How is it other than stealing,
to not keep this river alive . . .

channel: home or number?
cycle: season or tire?
bar: sand or wrought iron?
river: water or fire?

How to find it:
evidence we wish wasn't there--
preferring a bottle-less message
shared among those afloat
and aware . . .

element: habitat or burner?
wake: canoe or pyre?
cell: living or locked?
river: water or fire?